

### REMARKS

There are now pending in this application Claims 27, 28, 30, 32-36, 38, and 40-44, of which Claims 27, 35, 43, and 44 are independent. Claims 29, 31, 37, and 39 have been cancelled without prejudice or waiver of their subject matter. No claims have been added.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application is respectfully sought.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 29 and 37 recite patentable subject matter.

As the Examiner will further appreciate, each of the independent claims has been amended and now recites limitation means or a limiting step wherein there is limiting of the staplable position on the basis of the paper feed tray information related to the paper feed tray selected and the binding locations set. According to the invention, a staplable position can be limited based on the selection of the paper feed trays equipped in the printer. As a result, positive staple processing can be achieved based on information on the paper feed trays which closely relate to the printer actually used. Applicant respectfully submits that the above salient features of the invention as now set forth in each of the independent claims is neither taught nor suggested by the applied art.

Ohtani relates to an image forming apparatus with a finishing section including a stapling function and provides that the designation of the staple position from a host computer is communicated to the printer and designated staplable position is determined whether or not it is appropriate for the printer. However, Ohtani does not limit staplable positions based on the paper feed tray information related to the paper feed tray where paper is actually set and the

printer which actually executes the staple processing. As a result, the selected staple position cannot be used according to Ohtani. Moreover, Ohtani is not understood to teach or suggest Applicant's first setting means for setting a binding location as now set forth in each of the independent claims.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the independent claims is distinguishable over the art of record.

The remaining claims in the above application are dependent claims and are therefore patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to the independent claims. In addition, each recite features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

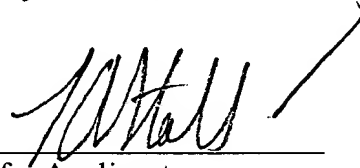
Applicant respectfully submits that all outstanding matters in the above application have been addressed and that this application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant further requests that the Examiner enter the above amendments as they are being presented in an earnest effort to advance prosecution and place the application in condition for allowance. These amendments were not earlier entered as Applicant was of the firm belief that the claims previously on file were distinguishable over the applied art.

Favorable reconsideration, together with entry of the above amendments and early passage to issue of the above application is respectfully sought.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'L. Stahl', is written over a horizontal line.

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**MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE CLAIMS**

27. (Amended) A printing control apparatus for controlling a printer having a stapling function for binding together a plurality of sheets of printing paper that have been printed out at one of a plurality staplable positions and a plurality of paper feed trays, comprising:

acquisition means for acquiring paper feed tray information of said printer in response to an instruction acquiring a device information; and

selection means for selecting a paper feed tray from among a plurality of paper feed trays; [and]

first setting means for setting a binding location; and

limitation means for limiting the staplable position on the basis of said paper feed tray information related to said paper feed tray selected by said selection means and said binding location set by said first setting means[, on the basis of the paper feed tray selected by said selection means, a usable staplable position from among the plurality of staplable positions].

28. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 27, further comprising [first] second setting means for setting a size of a printing paper,

wherein said limitation means limits the staplable position on the basis of the size of the printing paper set by said [first] second setting means and the feed tray selected by said selection means.

29. CANCELLED

31. CANCELLED

32. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 27, wherein said printing control apparatus is prepared for in a host computer which communicates with a printer by an interactive interface, [further comprising:] wherein,

said acquisition means [for acquiring] acquires the paper information, which includes setting direction and size of the printing paper for each paper feed tray prepared for in said printer, from said printer by said interactive interface according to the designation of a user, and

[wherein] said limitation means associates paper information acquired by said acquisition means with the paper information of the paper feed tray selected by the said selection means according to the instruction of the user from among the list of a plurality of paper feed trays displayed in the display unit and limits the staplable position on the basis of the associated paper information.

35. (Amended) A printing control method for controlling a printer having a stapling function for binding together a plurality of sheets of printing paper that have been printed out at one of a plurality of staplable positions and a plurality of paper feed trays, comprising the steps of:

acquiring paper feed tray information of said printer in response to an instruction acquiring a device information;  
selecting a paper feed tray from among a plurality of paper feed trays; [and]  
setting a binding location; and  
limiting the staplable position on the basis of said paper feed tray information related to said paper feed tray selected by said selection means and said binding location set[, on the basis of the paper feed tray selected, a usable staplable position from among the plurality of staplable positions].

37. CANCELLED

39. CANCELLED

40. (Amended) The method according to claim 35, wherein said printing control method is prepared for in a host computer which communicates with a printer by an interactive interface, [further comprising the steps of:] wherein,

the acquiring [paper information, which] step includes setting direction and size of the printing paper for each paper feed tray prepared for in said printer, from said printer by the interactive interface according to the designation of a user, and

[wherein] the limiting step associates paper information acquired by said acquiring step with the paper information of the paper feed tray selected in the selecting step

according to the instruction of the user from among the list of a plurality of paper feed trays displayed in the display unit and limits the staplable position on the basis of the associated paper information.

43. (Amended) A computer executable program for executing a printing control method for controlling a printer having a stapling function for binding together a plurality of sheets of printing paper that have been printed out at one of a plurality staplable positions and a plurality of paper feed trays, the program comprising instructions for performing the steps of:

acquiring paper feed tray information of said printer in response to an instruction acquiring a device information;

selecting a paper feed tray from among a plurality of paper feed trays; [and]

setting a binding location; and

limiting the staplable position on the basis of said paper feed tray information related to said paper feed tray selected by said selection means and said binding location set[, on the basis of the paper feed tray selected, a usable staplable position among the plurality of staplable positions].

44. (Amended) A recording medium on which is stored machine readable program code for executing a printing control method for controlling a printer having a stapling function for binding together a plurality of sheets of printing paper that have been printed out at

one of a plurality staplable positions and a plurality of paper feed trays, said program code comprising instructions for performing the steps of:

acquiring paper feed tray information of said printer response to an instruction  
acquiring a device information;

selecting a paper feed tray from among a plurality of paper feed trays; [and]

setting a binding location; and

limiting the staplable position on the basis of said paper feed tray information  
related to said paper feed tray selected by said selection means and said binding location set[, on  
the basis of the paper feed tray selected, a usable staplable position from among the plurality of  
staplable positions].